



Department Updates

October / November 2021

Child Support Agency

Lynette Metcalf, Program Director

The Barron County Child Support website (<https://www.barroncountywi.gov/departments>) is an excellent resource for clients to utilize. The website provides access to forms and helpful information such as applying for services, checking payment information, child support calculator, payment options, direct deposit form, job search form, medical documentation form, Motion to Change document, Stipulation and Order to Change document, and payment coupon access.

Our agency is now accepting child support payments via credit/debit card at our office. Clients can also make payments online via AllPaid (<https://www.govpaynow.com/gps/user/cyg/plc/a004uj>).

Child Support funding is based on performance guideline categories of Court Order Establishment, Paternity Establishment, Current Child Support Collections, and Arrears Collections. The graph below represents a comparison of the Barron County Child Support Agency current performance with the State of Wisconsin's FFY Target goal and the State of Wisconsin's FFY 2022 (statewide average) performance.

	Barron County as of October 31, 2021	Wisconsin Target Rate at FFY End	Wisconsin FFY 2022 as of October 31, 2021
Court Order Establishment	94.37%	80%	85.82%
Paternity Establishment	94.42%	90%	88.00%
Current Child Support	76.55%	80%	71.97%
Arrears Collection	33.04%	80%	30.54%

The Barron County Child Support Agency was able to collect a total of \$1,165,222.81 in child support from August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 to support our client's families.

The Child Support window remains open to the public from 8:00am-4:30pm. Our staff continues rotating time in the office and working remotely. Child Support clients are strongly encouraged to call (715) 537-6390 and leave a voicemail or email our agency at childsupport@co.barron.wi.us to set up an appointment with their caseworker to ensure availability.

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Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

As of 08/09/2021, the State of Wisconsin is contracting with WestCap to handle Barron County's Energy Assistance Program. Consumers should call 715-265-4271 and press 0 to apply for Energy Assistance or with any questions.

The Family Drug Treatment Court program (FDTC) had the first program graduations occur at the beginning of October. The program is designed to provide support and services to families involved in Children's Court through the Child in Need of Protection and Services program (CHIPS) as well as having substance use disorders. Listed below are just a small example of the accomplishments of the graduates.

- I got my High School Equivalency Diploma
- I got my driver's license
- I completed Intensive Outpatient treatment
- I am learning parenting skills
- I am making friends with sober moms with toddlers
- I was able to process my past traumas with therapy
- I am able to be honest
- I have improved my organizational skills and I am still learning
- I completed the 12 steps with my sponsor
- I enrolled in CNA classes
- I have a positive support network
- I have resolved my criminal proceedings without a felony on my record
- I will be debt free soon
- I continue to learn about my spirituality
- I have a job that I like
- I am a dependable employee
- I am caught up on bills
- We pay our rent early
- I have a savings account
- I have more self-confidence
- We moved from a studio apartment to a 2 bedroom apartment
- I can maintain a clean and safe home for my child
- I bought a car
- I graduated FDTC
- I am a positive role model to my son and my peers

Our Mental Health Crisis, AODA and Community Support Programs are three of our state certified programs at DHHS. The State came to complete the program recertification in early October and all of these programs were recertified. We had a new state certifier this year and she was very complimentary of the good work we do in Barron County both operationally and programmatically. Certification standards are set through Administrative Rule and State Statute.

DHHS and the Sheriff's Department are in the early phases of creating a co-responder model for mental health calls that come in through the Sheriff's Department. The idea with the model is that a mental health professional will team with responding officers to calls that involve mental health issues. The purpose of this program is multi-faceted including; keeping individuals with mental health issues from getting criminal charges or going to jail if there is a more appropriate response needed, decreasing the amount of time Law Enforcement Deputies spend on mental health cases when they could be responding to other needs in our community, and more quickly getting individuals set up with the support and services needed to stabilize and maintain good mental health. The intention would be to expand this program to all law enforcement jurisdictions in the County once a solid program is developed.

Public Health continues to address issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic. Efforts now are focused on contact tracing, vaccinations and testing. We do have a Saturday testing site at the Barron County Sheriff's Department which is being supported by the Wisconsin National Guard. Times may vary based on testing needs and utilization in the county. Refer to the County website for updated hours. We held a mass vaccination clinic for Pfizer booster shots. We gave about 300 Covid vaccine booster shots on October 13, 2021 at Barron Electric Cooperative. These clinics would not be possible without the support of the following; Barron Electric Cooperative, a large group of volunteer medical providers (doctors and nurses) from our county, Barron County Departments of Highway, Sheriff, Emergency Management, Maintenance, Public Health and other DHHS staff. We do not anticipate doing another mass clinic but we will provide Covid vaccinations at Public Health on a walk-in basis Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-11 am and 1:00 pm-4 pm. Other times will be accommodated on an appointment basis.

Treasurer

Yvonne Ritchie, Treasurer

Unpaid Taxes

On September 1st of each year, the current year unpaid taxes are transferred to certificates. This is the first step in the tax foreclosure process. The unpaid tax for the 2021 tax year is slightly higher this year. Surprisingly last year the Certificate was down below 1% which I attribute to the stimulus payments citizens received. Listed below is a spreadsheet showing the tax roll and certificate totals for the past 14 years showing the balances on September of the year the taxes were due and also the balances due as of September 1, 2021 and November 1, 2021.

Tx Year/ Year Due	Total Tax Roll	Delq Tax Total Sept.1 of Sale Year	% Unpaid	Balance Due Sept 1,2021	Balance Due Nov. 1,2021
2007/2008	69,598,313.20	1,492,011.09	2.14%		
2008/2009	71,666,416.40	2,133,601.83	2.98%		
2009/2010	74,900,729.82	1,732,165.61	2.31%		
2010/2011	77,395,966.67	1,737,114.51	2.24%	575.80	575.80
2011/2012	76,795,529.89	1,567,455.46	2.04%	992.76	992.76
2012/2013	76,901,453.31	1,737,114.51	2.26%	1026.96	1026.96
2013/2014	78,275,967.08	1,413,250.08	1.81%	990.14	990.14
2014/2015	80,401,592.87	1,122,424.64	1.40%	1,021.70	1,021.70
2015/2016	81,614,850.63	1,197,132.32	1.47%	1,030.72	1,030.72
2016/2017	83,514,987.05	926,512.08	1.11%	1,037.28	1,037.28
2017/2018	86,579,823.85	932,812.82	1.08%	1,950.04	1,377.94
2018/2019	89,898,505.69	919,741.25	1.02%	145,053.64	113,417.69
2019/2020	91,527,482.63	769,791.94	0.84%	293,166.06	267,590.64
2020/2021	91,891,128.71	1,091,213.54	1.19%	1,091,213.54	604,906.91
TOTAL				1,535,463.12	991,373.02

The In-Rem Tax Deed process starts two years from the September 1st certificate date.

ACT 185

There were originally a total of 185 parcels that took advantage of ACT 185 in the amount of \$394,717. These were people that paid the 1st installment of the 2019 tax due January 31, 2020, but did not pay the second installment timely.

As of November 1, 2021 there are 47 parcels in the amount of \$30,292 that are still unpaid. ACT 185 reduces the interest and penalty due on only the 2019 taxes that were due in 2020. This amount is included in the 2019/2020 balances.

Tax Deed Property Sale

The sale of tax deed property is now listed for sale through the Wisconsin Surplus website. There is a link to this site on the Barron County "News" website. The last day of the auction is November 30, 2021.

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Jennifer Jako, Director

The ADRC is a one-stop shop for information and resources for older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and other community providers. We serve anyone regardless of income or assets and our services are free and confidential. Our job is to help individuals and caregivers understand all the various resources and navigate decisions to stay healthy as we age and/or navigate living with a disability.

Aging Plan: Every three years, we are required to develop a new three-year plan. The plan outlines issues and challenges for older adults and goals for our agency. It represents the county's intention to ensure older people have the opportunity to realize their full potential and participate in all areas of community life. Mandated by federal law, the plan is required in order to receive federal funds under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended.

Our department has operated for 48 years, starting with countywide meal sites in 1973. In 1980, the Barron County Office on Aging was formally established as a county department in accordance with the Wisconsin Elders Act. Then in 2005, we were awarded State ADRC funding. While we work with two budgets (Aging and ADRC), we meet customers according to their needs, not by internally determined funding sources. We offer a large range of programs and services to assist people, most for a suggested donation. Services include:

- Senior dining
- Home delivered meals
- Nutrition education
- Transportation
- Respite
- Caregiver support
- Healthy aging workshops
- Dementia support
- Medical equipment loan closet
- Scam information
- Food commodities
- Farmer's Market vouchers
- Information and assistance
- Elder Benefits
- Disability Benefits
- Support groups



The data collected through public input provided us with clear top community needs including:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • In-home care | • Understanding technology |
| • Understanding public and private benefits | • Scams |
| • Family caregiving support | • Isolation |
| • Healthcare | • Eating well |
| • Transportation | • Housing |
| • Brain health / dementia | • |

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Aging & Disability Resource Center (Continued)

We use community input to re-evaluate current services to assure we are meeting top community needs. We develop goals that help move us towards meeting community needs. I encourage everyone to review the full final Aging Plan: [Barron County 2022-2024 Aging Plan](#)

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment: Medicare D open enrollment is October 15 – December 7 and is one of the busiest times of year for our department. Elder Benefits and Disability Benefits staff are busy assisting people to evaluate and enroll in a drug plan online. Medicare beneficiaries have multiple drug plans to choose from to find the best fit with their prescription needs in the coming year. The change in plans will take effect on January 1, 2022. Our office typically assists over 1,000 different customers during this timeframe.

ARPA Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant: This grant is one of many grant programs announced by Governor Evers, funded by the American Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This grant provides funding for significant projects that provide long-term benefits to communities while addressing public health needs. Barron County submitted an \$8.5 million dollar grant project to build an innovative Barron County Community Health building in the City of Rice Lake at the Ann St. location. This building would enhance capacity for Public Health programming including: Nutrition Program commercial kitchen, Daybreak respite program, WIC clinic, Mental Health, and Community Support Program. These programs currently operate in various rental agreements. The ADRC has been a lead on this project because, for example, as of writing this update today - our kitchen produced 496 meals for lunch. It will be critical for our operation to be in a bigger kitchen space to meet growing demand for the Nutrition Program as our county ages. Grant announcements are expected to be made in January 2022.

If you or anyone you know needs any information about our services or needs help planning for the future, please call at 715-537-6225, email staff, or check out our website at www.adrcconnections.org, or like us on Facebook [@ADRCBarron](#).